

Reading Strategies for Decoding, Vocabulary, and Fluency

Teach Like a Champion by Doug Lemov

Techniques for Addressing Decoding Errors

- **Punch the Error** – Repeat the word after the student emphasizing the part of the word read correctly. Then ask them to try to get the rest.
- **Mark the Spot** – Reread the two or four words prior to the word which the student was unable to decode, inflecting your voice to show the student to pick it up from there.
- **Name the sound** – Name the sound a letter/group of letters should make and ask students to repeat and apply it. (example: that's a soft g like giraffe)
- **Chunk It** – Help students chunk difficult words by recognizing familiar patterns and words within words. (example: you got be right, but let's try covering the be. What do you have left?)
- **Speed the Exceptions** – When a word does not conform to standard rules, identify the correct pronunciation quickly and directly. (example: That word is written like bury, but pronounced like berry. We'll just have to remember that one)
- Give students quick and simple positive reinforcement when they read difficult words correctly.

Techniques to Reinforce Strong Vocabulary

- **Multiple Takes** – Have students practice using a word in different settings and situations, give examples, and remind students of previously taught words to help the vocabulary enter into their functioning memory. (example: Who can remember a word we learned about last week that means___?)
- **Compare, Combine, Contrast** – Have students find differences in word meanings and experience the combining of vocabulary words.
- **Upgrade** – Find opportunities to use rich vocabulary when possible so that students are continually introduced to new words.
- **Stress the Syntax** – Give students practice identifying or changing a word's part of speech and word tense. (example: Can you think of a sentence that uses understand in the past tense?)
- **Back to Roots** – Stress the foundational knowledge of roots so students can apply their understanding to new words.
- **Picture This** – Create a multidimensional image of new vocabulary by using pictures and actions. (example: Show me what you would look like if you were furious.)

Techniques to Reinforce Strong Fluency

- **Show Some Spunk** – Read aloud to your students to model strong reading and expression.
- **Ask For Some Drama** – Have your students practice using expression. Make them aware of a character's mood and important words that should be emphasized.
- **Check the Mechanics** – Make explicit reference to punctuation and ask students to demonstrate their understanding of it in their oral reading.
- **Lather, Rinse, Repeat** – Have students re-read frequently. This allows them to focus on fluency rather than just vocabulary.